

ABSTRACT

A travel service system and related methods provide a unified and consistent Graphical User Interface (GUI) to travel counselors regardless of the General Distribution System that maintains travel related services and reservations. The system is capable of interfacing with multiple air, car and hotel reservation systems. In addition, the system maintains traveler profiles that include data indicating a traveler's preferences, biographical data, and preferred payment information. Furthermore, the system maintains data regarding a client's travel policies and contracts with various travel service suppliers such as airlines, hotels, and car rental agencies. The data from these various sources can be used to provide default information for various fields in the interface, and to search for and provide travel services that are consistent with the client's travel policies. In some embodiments of the invention, the system enforces the client's travel policies by not allowing a user to select options that would violate the client's travel policies.

"Express Mail" mailing label number EL72/274809 US

Date of Deposit June 20, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Printed Name Rodney L. Lacy

Signature 